

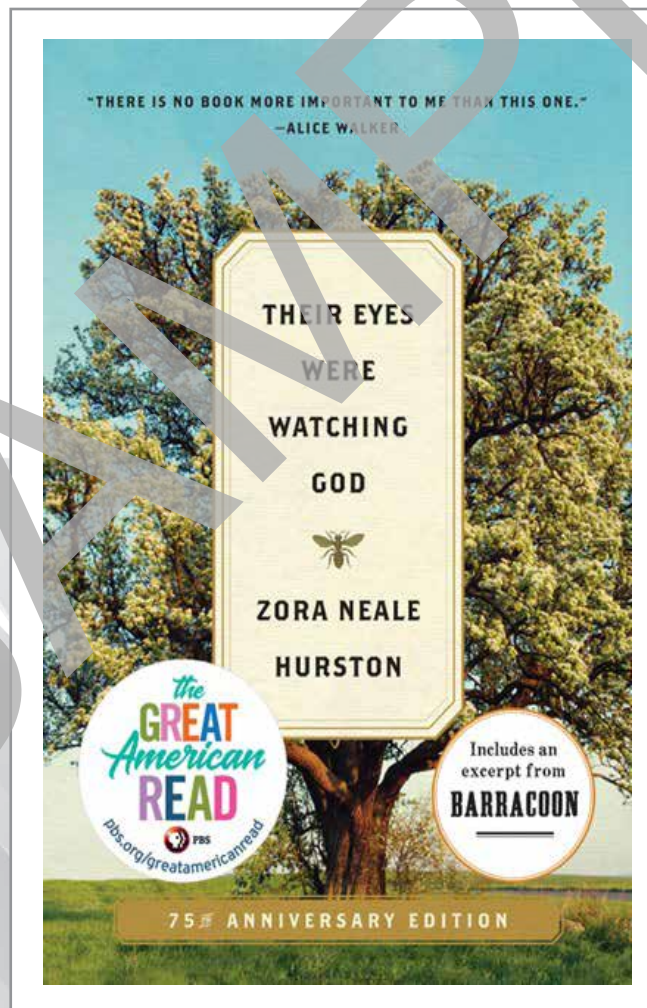


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Zora Neale Hurston



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Their Eyes Were Watching God

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Directions: Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test.

*These are open-ended questions with no right or wrong answers.

Chapters 1-3, pages 1-24

1. Why are the women annoyed when Janie walks by them?
2. What does Pheoby take to Janie?
3. How long has Janie been away?
4. Put Janie's comment into your own words: "You can tell 'em what Ah say if you wants to. Dat's just de same as me 'cause mah tongue is in my friend's mouf." (p. 6)
5. Who are the Washburns?
6. Why did the sheriff send the bloodhounds after Janie's father?
7. Why doesn't Nanny like Johnny Taylor?
8. Why did the mistress of the plantation slap Nanny?
9. Why does Nanny arrange for Janie to marry Logan Killicks?
10. Why does Janie go to see Nanny with a long face 2-1/2 months after her wedding?
- *11. Do you agree with Nanny that there are more important reasons to marry than for love? Should Janie try to make herself content with Killicks?
- *12. **Prediction:** At the beginning of the novel, readers are told that Janie has just come back from burying the dead. Who do you suppose these "sudden dead" (p.1) might be?

Chapters 4-5, pages 25-47

1. Why does Logan decide to buy another mule?
2. Where is Joe Starks going when he stops at Janie's for a drink?
3. "Janie pulled back a long time because [Jody] did not represent sun-up and pollen and blooming trees, but he spoke for far horizon." Why does Janie hesitate to go with Jody—and why does she decide to go?
4. Why does Logan threaten to take an ax and kill Janie?
5. Why is the town where Jody and Janie settled called "Eatonville"?
6. Why does Joe go to see Captain Eaton?
7. What does Joe order to be built before he and Janie have a house?
8. How does Jody get to be mayor—and why doesn't his wife say a few words to the crowd?

Name _____

Directions: You are Janie. Your husband Jody constantly puts you down and sometimes strikes you. Write to an advice columnist about what to do. Then have a partner write the columnist's letter of response.

Before drafting your letters, work with your partner to complete the graphic organizer, below. Add to the list of choices she has and criteria for measuring each. Then rate each choice (1=yes, 2=maybe, 3=no).

Problem: Janie's unhappiness in her marriage to Jody

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria:			
	Will this make me happier?	Will this save my marriage?	Will this change Jody's behavior?	4.
Leave Jody.				
Hit him back.				
Give him the cold shoulder.				
Try harder to please him.				
5.				
6.				

Complete one of the following on the back of your paper:

Dear Gabby:

I'm sure that my problem is one you've heard before. My husband...(if your letter is from Janie to Gabby)

OR

Dear "Unhappy in Eatonville:

You are wise to consider all your options before you act. If you... (for Gabby's response)

Name _____

Activity #12: Literary Analysis: Figurative Language
Use After Reading (two-page activity)

I. Simile

A **simile** is a figure of speech in which a similarity between two essentially unlike objects is directly expressed, using words such as "like", "as," or "so." For example: "red as blood."

- a) Find and write down each of the similes described below.
- b) Tell what qualities are being emphasized by the comparison.

1. (p. 30, Logan is compared to a bear.)

a) _____

b) _____

2. (p. 54, Matt is compared to a hen.)

a) _____

b) _____

3. (p. 81, In separate passages, Jody's sounds are compared to a hog's, a bass drum's, a trombone's.)

a) _____

b) _____